

IF Wycombe Wanderers are to take the Rothmans Isthmian League championship this season, they must pull themselves out of the rut that has seen them lose twice and draw once on their last three outings. And the team trying to stop them tomorrow (Saturday) is Enfield, whom the Blues meet at Southbury Road.

One of the problems that arose from Tuesday night's defeat at Woking was the instability of the defence. Goalkeeper John Maskell had a worrying evening while the back four were hurried into errors. Distribution to the goalscorers was therefore very limited.

But despite the defeat, there were signs that Wycombe were producing some of the football that has taken them to the top of Division One this season. If they can settle into their smooth passing game, they could well prove too much for an Enfield side that has languished in the bottom half of the table all term.

Enfield have not won a league match since February 9 when they beat Corinthian Casuals 3-1. Since then they have gone down to Oxford 1-2, Hitchin 0-4, and St. Albans 0-1 and drawn with Tooting 1-1. On Saturday they also took a point from their visit to Kingstonian — the draw specialists — when the teams ended at 1-1.

A sign of better things to come, however, was the form of Enfield's three newcomers from Hendon — Tony Jennings, Phil Fry and Derek Baker. These three played their first game last week and certainly made their mark. Jennings in particular bought a touch of class to the defence.

Also last week, former Wycombe Wanderer Rob Williams was tried in the back four, and this too was successful. Rob went straight into midfield when he joined Enfield from Wycombe in February.

Since Enfield last met Wycombe at Loakes Park in November when the Blues won 2-1 with Dave Bullock in goal, there have been several changes in personnel at Southbury Road. Roger Day and John Butterfield joined Ilford, Ian Wolstenholme left for St. Albans and John Connel now plays for Molesley in the Spartan League.

In their places have come the Hendon trio and also several others. Dave Swain, the former Slough centre forward, is playing upfront with Joey Adams, whose two goals brought Wycombe's defeat in the corresponding game last term.

Wanderers may make further changes in defence while Tony Horseman, substitute on Tuesday, is still doubtful with a leg injury.